

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03

/048 W

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R 271457Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3263

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, SF

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF UPINGTON AIRPORT

REFERENCE: A: CAPE TOWN 767 (NOTAL)

B: CAPE TOWN A-106 (NOTAL)

1. REF (A) WHICH BEING REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT, CONCERNS SAG PLANS TO DEVELOP AIRPORT TO HANDLE 747'S ON TECHNICAL STOPS.

2. DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION (DU TOIT) TOLD US AUG 26 THAT SAG IS NOT PLANNING TO INSTALL NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AT UPINGTON. WEATHER IS SELDOM A PROBLEM AND ALL FLIGHTS WILL BE IN DAYLIGHT.

3. HE DESCRIBED UPINGTON AS AN "INSURANCE POLICY." IF SAL ISLAND AND/OR LAS PALMAS REMAIN AVAILABLE SAA DOES NOT EXPECT TO USE UPINGTON.

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HE SAID POLITICAL CLIMATE IN CAPE VERDES REMAINS GOOD FROM SA POINT

OF VIEW BUT FUTURE UNPREDICTABLE. AS TO LAS PALMAS, SPANIARDS TRYING TO USE LANDING RIGHTS AS LEVER TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS ON SUCH UNRELATED ISSUES AS FISHING RIGHTS AND SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN SA/EUROPE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

4. UPINGTON WILL GIVE SAA OPTION OF FLYING NON-STOP TO EUROPE WITH 747 SP'S OR WITH PRESENT 747'S AFTER MODIFICATION. (MODIFICATION OF TWO PLANES COMPLETED). DU TOIT ALSO SAID SP'S COULD DO UPINGTON/NEW YORK NON-STOP IF NECESSARY.

5. IF USED, UPINGTON WILL BE TECHNICAL STOP ONLY AND ONLY ON THE NORTHBOUND LEG. DU TOIT SAYS THAT "EVEN THE MP FOR UPINGTON" WILL HAVE TO CATCH FLIGHT AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT, JOHANNESBURG.

6. DU TOIT SAID SAA VERY INTERESTED IN ASCENSION ISLAND. HE IMPLIED THAT SAG OR SAA HAVE DISCUSSED ASCENSION WITH HMG AT VARIOUS TIMES BUT BRITISH ALWAYS REPLY "IT'S UP TO THE AMERICANS". HE SAID THAT EVERY TIME BRITISH GET NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBLE ACTION BY KENYA TO DENY USE NAIROBI FOR REFUELING OF BA FLIGHTS TO SA THE BRITISH ASK INFORMALLY ABOUT USING WINDHOEK. SAG RESPONSE, SAID DU TOIT, IS NON-COMMITTAL BUT WITH REITERATION THEIR INTEREST IN ASCENSION.

7. WE HAVE COVERED ASCENSION SITUATION IN PAST WITH DU TOIT AS WE HAVE ALSO WITH PIENAAR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SAA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, CIVIL AVIATION, UPINGTON, AIRPORTS, AIR ROUTES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR03263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-1069
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750813/aaaaa1ft.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAPE TOWN 767
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPANSION OF UPINGTON AIRPORT
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006